

## **Beyond High School: Exploring College and University Options for Students with Disabilities**

Many parents of students with disabilities seek confirmation that their children can do college work. Given a nurturing, supportive environment, abilities can be tapped and students can experience a meaningful education after high school.

A common characteristic of the following individuals is that they all had a disability which limited them in some way but did not stop them from continuing their education or their pursuit of a dream:

- Olympic track star, Wilma Rudolph (polio survivor);
- TV writer, producer and actor, Stephen Cannell (dyslexic);
- Major league pitcher, Jim Abbott (one-handed);
- Comedienne, Kathy Buckley (hearing impaired);
- Electrical engineer and developer of alternating current, Charles Steinmetz (dwarf);
- Vice-President of the United States, Nelson Rockefeller (dyslexic);
- Professional football player, Neil Smith (learning disabled);
- Professional baseball player, Jim Eisenreich (Tourette's Syndrome); and
- Academy Award winner, Marlee Matlin (hearing impaired).

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities who attend college**

According to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, 1990, universities and colleges which accept federal funds must provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The key factor in determining whether a person is considered as having a disability is whether the physical or mental impairment results in a substantial limitation of one or more major life activities: caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, or working.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act defines a qualified individual with disabilities, for post-secondary programs, as "...a person with a disability who meets the academic and technical standards requisite for admission to, or participation in, the college's education program or activity." With accommodations, many individuals with disabilities are able to meet the challenges of higher education.

The information below lists some of the accommodations which have been made for college students with disabilities at colleges and universities in Arizona. An institution may require documentation of a student's disability before providing requested academic adjustments or auxiliary aids. The requested documentation may include the results of medical, psychological, or emotional diagnostic tests, or other professional evaluations.

### **Adapted college entrance exams**

Students with disabilities may request accommodations in testing format or equipment to compensate for their disability. Some of the adaptations which may be requested in the Scholastic Assessment Tests (SAT) and the American College Testing (ACT) are: extended time, audio cassette edition with regular-type copy, and a reader or a person to record answers. Tests are administered several times during the school year. The accommodations or adaptations in the testing procedures or environment must be requested well in advance of the anticipated test date. A Student Eligibility form must be submitted when requesting accommodations.

For additional information, contact a school counselor or visit the web sites listed below. You may also write or call:

American College Testing  
Special Testing - 61  
P.O. Box 4028  
Iowa City, IA 52243-4028  
319-337-1332 or 319-337-1701 (TDD)  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Scholastic Aptitude Test  
SAT Services for Students with Disabilities  
P.O. Box 6226  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6226  
609-771-7137  
[www.collegeboard.org/](http://www.collegeboard.org/)

## **References**

HEATH Resource Center. (1999). 1999 College freshmen with disabilities: A biennial statistical profile. Washington, DC: Author

HEATH Resource Center. (2000). Creating options: A resource on financial aid for students with disabilities. Washington, DC: Author

Learning Disabilities Association of America. (1995). Secondary education and beyond: Providing opportunities for students with learning disabilities. Pittsburgh, PA: Author

U.S. Department of Education. The civil rights of students with hidden disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Washington, DC

## **Resources**

Martz, G., Magloire, K. & Silver, T. (1998). Cracking the ACT. New York: Random House

Pine, P. (1999). Master the SAT and PSAT. New York: Macmillan

## **Organizations**

American Foundation for the Blind, 11 Penn Plaza, Ste. 300, New York, NY 10001, 212-502-7661 or 800-232-5463, 212- 502-7662 (TDD), [www.afb.org](http://www.afb.org)

American Speech - Language - Hearing Association, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-897-5700 or 800-638-8255, [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)

Brain Injury Association, 105 N. Alfred St., Alexandria, VA 22314, 800-444-6443, [www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org)

HEATH Resource Center, National Clearinghouse on Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities, One Dupont Circle, NW, Ste. 800, Washington, DC 20036-1193, 202-939-9320 or 800-544-3284 (V/TT), [www.heath-resource-center.org](http://www.heath-resource-center.org)

InterAct Arizona, Arizona State University West, College of Education - 3151, 4701 W. Thunderbird Road, P.O. Box 37100, Phoenix, AZ 85069-7100, 877-225-1256 (toll free) or 602-543-3258, [www.west.asu.edu/transitionaz](http://www.west.asu.edu/transitionaz)

Learning Disabilities Association of America, 4156 Library Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15234, 412-341-1515 or 800-300-6710, [www.LDAAmerica.org](http://www.LDAAmerica.org)

Muscular Dystrophy Association of Southern Arizona, 2900 N. Swan Rd., #201, Tucson, AZ 85712, 520-795-3434, [www.mdausa.org](http://www.mdausa.org)

United Cerebral Palsy Association, 1660 L St., NW, Ste. 700, Washington, D.C. 20036-5616, 202-776-0406 or 800-872- 5827, [www.ucpsa.org/](http://www.ucpsa.org/)

The following Arizona colleges and universities may be contacted regarding accommodations needed by students with disabilities. The school may request documentation of a student's disability before providing academic adjustments or auxiliary aids. Most of the colleges and universities offer services to students who have disabilities such as:

- blindness/visual impairments
- deafness/hearing impairments
- learning disabilities
- orthopedic or mobility impairments
- other medically related impairments
- traumatic brain injury

Some of the services, offered on an individualized basis, and which vary from campus to campus, are:

- academic advisement and planing

- campus adaptive transportation
- assistive technology
- campus orientation
- career and personal counseling
- information and referral
- mobility training
- needs assessment
- registration assistance
- sign-language interpreting
- test-taking accommodations
- tutoring
- volunteer note-taking
- vocational rehabilitation (RSA) liaison

Arizona Western College, Yuma, Special Needs Coordinator, 520-317-6000,  
[www.awc.cc.az.us/](http://www.awc.cc.az.us/)

Central Arizona College, Coolidge, Disabled Student Services, 520-426-4409,  
[www.cac.edu/](http://www.cac.edu/)

Cochise College, Douglas, V.I.P., 520-364-7943, 800-966-7943, [www.cochise.org/](http://www.cochise.org/)

Coconino College, Flagstaff, 800-350-7122, [www.coco.cc.az.us/](http://www.coco.cc.az.us/)

Din College, Tsale, 520-283-6321, [www.ncc.cc.nm.us/](http://www.ncc.cc.nm.us/)

Eastern Arizona College, Thatcher, Disabled Student Services, 800-367-8939,  
[www.eac.cc.az.us/](http://www.eac.cc.az.us/)

Maricopa County Community College District, Tempe, Disabled Student Resources,  
 480-731-8000, Includes Chandler/Gilbert, Estrella Mt., Gateway, Glendale, Maricopa  
 Skill Center, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Phoenix College, Rio Salado, Scottsdale, and  
 South Mountain Community Colleges.

Mohave Community College, Kingman, Success Center, 520-757-0801,  
[www.mohave.cc.az.us/](http://www.mohave.cc.az.us/)  
 Includes the Kingman, Lake Havasu, Mohave Valley, and North Mohave Center  
 campuses.

Northland Pioneer College, Holbrook, Disabled Resources, 520-524-7450,  
[www.northland.cc.az.us/](http://www.northland.cc.az.us/) Includes Little Colorado, Heber, Kayenta, Keams Canyon,  
 Painted Desert, Silver Creek, Springerville, St. Johns, Whiteriver, and White Mountain  
 campuses.

Pima Community College, Tucson, Disabled Student Resources, 520-206-4500, [www.pcc.cc.az.us/](http://www.pcc.cc.az.us/) Includes the Community, Desert Vista, Downtown, East, and West campuses, and the Center for Training and Development.

Yavapai College, Prescott, Learning Center, 520-776-2085, [www.yavapai.cc.az.us/](http://www.yavapai.cc.az.us/) Includes Prescott, Sedona, and Verde Valley campuses

## **Four-Year Programs**

Arizona State University, Disability Resources for Students, Matthews Center, Rm. 143, 3202 Tempe, AZ 85287-3202, Includes Main, East and West campuses. 480-965-1234, [www.asu.edu/](http://www.asu.edu/)

Grand Canyon University, Office of Student Life, 3300 W. Camelback Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85017-1097, 602-589-2830, [www.grand-canyon.edu/](http://www.grand-canyon.edu/)

Northern Arizona University, Disability Support Services, Bldg. 92, P.O. 5633, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5633, 520-523-8773, [www.nau.edu/](http://www.nau.edu/)

University of Arizona, 1540 E. Second St., P.O. Box 210064, Center for Disability Related Resources (CeDRR), Tucson, AZ 85721-0064, 520-621-3268, [www.arizona.edu/](http://www.arizona.edu/)

University of Phoenix

Student Services, 4615 E. Elwood St., Phoenix, AZ 85040, 800-776-4867, 480-557-2107, [www.phoenix.edu/](http://www.phoenix.edu/)

Director of Operations, 5099 E. Grant Rd. Tucson AZ 85712, 800-228-7240, [www.phoenix.edu](http://www.phoenix.edu)

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